

Joint AgNER Appropriations Committees
Follo-up to March 5 Presentation on Commerce: Commerce REDD
March 6, 2019

Below is the entire response from the Department of Commerce regarding the efforts of Commerce rural planners for recovery and resiliency after Hurricane Florence, particularly in eastern North Carolina.

Commerce Rural Economic Development Division
Florence Recovery Plan – October 2018

The Rural Economic Development Division will assess all existing programs and resources to consider adjustments that may assist recovery efforts, examine how we most effectively engage staff with impacted communities, decide how we stand up new programs (if applicable), and determine how we most effectively align our programs with those of our external partners. Existing programs include:

- The Appalachian Regional Commission
- Community Development Block Grant Programs
- IDF Utility Account
- **Main Street and Rural Planning**
- Rural Grants Programs
- Disaster Recovery Programs

REDD Approach

- Continue to work closely with the Governor’s Recovery Team and Emergency Management to advance existing recovery, expedite delivery of resources, and respond to challenges that arise after Hurricane Florence.
- Actively engage with other state, federal and external partners to align programs and identify and leverage resources in support of impacted communities
- Initiate outreach to impacted communities and hold listening sessions, as requested, that provide details about each REDD program, offer direct connections to our lead program staff, provide information about any new DR related funding programs, and allow our team to get input and feedback from community leaders.
- Directly engage Planning staff with impacted communities and offer planning and related services as requested.

REDD Planning support for communities impacted by Hurricane Florence includes the following engagements:

Bladen County

- Kelly (unincorporated)
 - Technical Assistance (Provided research and contact information for NC DEQ on dam repair and maintenance resources)
- Bladenboro
 - Strategic Planning

Columbus County

- County
 - Jobs Plan currently under review by County
- Lake Waccamaw
 - Strategic Planning

Cumberland County

- County
 - Technical Assistance

Montgomery County

- Biscoe
 - Strategic Planning
 - Implementation Services (Recruiting small businesses workshop)

Moore County

- Robbins
 - Strategic Planning

Robeson County

- Fairmont
 - Strategic Planning
- Red Springs
 - Strategic Planning

Notes:

- Planning staff contacted all communities impacted by Hurricane Florence to offer assistance
- Planning staff is directing clean-up related inquiries from impacted communities to the Disaster Relief Coordinator assigned to the Southeast Development Corporation (funded by Economic Development Administration).